

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 496
By Crutchfield

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Paul M. Starnes for his
meritorious service to Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body honor those inimitable Tennesseans who have given unreservedly of their time and incredible talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, Paul Starnes is one such person who has served Tennessee in various public capacities for most of his life; his accomplishments can be categorized as nothing short of outstanding; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Hiwassee College and Tennessee Wesleyan College, Mr. Starnes earned a masters degree in education from the University of Chattanooga and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Tennessee Wesleyan; and

WHEREAS, Paul Starnes began his distinguished career in public service as an educator in Chattanooga area high schools. In 1964 he became dean of students at Hiwassee College, and in recognition of his alacritous contributions to education, was named coordinator of special projects of the Hamilton County Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Paul Starnes served in several important positions with the department from 1974-1991, as community relations officer, assistant to the superintendent and board information officer, and as director of the division of student services and educational development; and

WHEREAS, his talent and energy in service of the House of Representatives allowed him to reach the pinnacle of effective public service; beginning in 1972 as a member of the 88th General Assembly and continuing until 1990, Paul Starnes served his constituents in the 31st House Electoral District with the utmost in compassion, dedication, acumen and integrity; and

WHEREAS, admired by Republicans and Democrats alike, Paul Starnes represented his constituents with professionalism and probity, always working diligently at his elected duties, weighing the opposing sides of complex issues, and then voting his conscience; and

WHEREAS, his ongoing commitment to good government enabled Mr. Starnes to be a valuable participant in the legislative process, as evidenced by his distinguished service as a member of the Education, Calendar and Rules, and House General Welfare Committees, which he served astutely as chairman from 1978-1990; and

WHEREAS, Paul Starnes also served as Democratic Whip from 1973-74, and chaired the Senate Joint Committee to Study Primary Health Care, the Senate Joint Committee on Vocational Education and the Indigent Care Study Committee; and

WHEREAS, he has played an influential role in the educational development of Chattanooga, as a member of the Southeast Tennessee Development District, a board member of Chattanooga State Technical Community College, the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Epilepsy Foundation, the Chattanooga Area Historical Association, the AIM Center, and as a member of the Family and Children's Services' Geriatric and Special Services Committee; and

WHEREAS, despite the many demands placed upon him through the years, Paul Starnes continued to lend his time and immense talent to the East Ridge and Madisonville Kiwanis Clubs, and was the only Kiwanian to serve four terms as lieutenant governor. In 1978 he was named East Ridge's "Most Outstanding Kiwanian" for the previous ten years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Starnes has been recognized by the Southern Health Association, the Tennessee Clerk's Association, the Tennessee Social Workers Association, the Tennessee Mental Health Association, the Tennessee Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the Tennessee Home

Health Care Association, and others too numerous to mention. He has been selected Tennessee's Most Outstanding Young Teacher, and received the 1990 Tennessee Hospital Association Community Service Award, the Epilepsy Foundation of American Outstanding Achievement in Government Service Award, and the East Tennessee Area Health Education Center's Outstanding Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Starnes evinces his faith at the McFarland United Methodist Church, where he has served on the administration board, the council on ministries, the finance committee, as a lay delegate to the Holston Annual Conference, and as chairman of the Pastor-Parish committee; and

WHEREAS, it is important that this body recognizes those public servants whose unflagging commitment to the public welfare of this state and her citizens is peerless; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor former Representative Paul Starnes for his meritorious service to Tennessee and extend to him and his family our best wishes for much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Mr. Starnes with this final clause omitted from such copy.